Quality of drinking water in rural areas

†2705. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proper arrangements have been made to check the quality of water supplied under hand-pump ground water scheme in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the dates on which such arrangement has been reviewed to ensure its compliance and the dates on which the quality of water being provided in rural areas has been tested by the Central team; and

(d) the number of hand-pumps and ground water schemes in each State and the water received from which has been declared unfit for drinking the during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Drinking Water Supply is a State Subject. The Government of India renders financial and technical assistance to the States in this endeavour through a centrally sponsored programme, namely, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under the programme, the Union Government has been assisting the State Governments in developing an integrated system of drinking water quality monitoring by setting up of district level laboratories for water quality testing, reporting and generating awareness among rural masses about the importance of water quality and its relation to health. Executive Guidelines for setting up of district level water quality testing laboratories were issued in 1990. 100% Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 4.00 lakh (1.00 lakh for building and 3.00 lakh for equipment) to each such laboratory is admissible as per the existing guidelines. Operational Manual, which outlines the procedures for water quality testing was also issued. Till date, 459 district level water quality testing laboratories have been sanctioned by the Government of India and 386 have been established, 146 have been established by State Governments and 14 by other organizations. These laboratories test the quality of hand-pump and ground water sources.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The State Governments furnish monthly reports regarding number of tests carried out by these laboratories. The programme of water quality monitoring and surveillance was reviewed recently and National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme for institutionalization of community participation has been launched in February 2006. Guidelines of the programme have also been issued to the State Governments. It is envisaged in this programme that grassroot level workers will be testing the quality of all drinking water sources with the help of user friendly field test kits. The district level laboratories will test positive samples.

(d) Apart from testing of sources by district level water quality laboratories, surveys are also conducted by the State Governments for identification of water quality affected habitations. As per the survey conducted by State Governments and information compiled on 31/3/2004, the number of quality affected habitations is 2,16,968 with the following break-up-31306 affected with fluoride, 23495 affected with salinity, 118088 iron, 5029 arsenic, 13958 nitrate and 25092 multiple.

Setting up of textile units in Tamil Nadu

2706. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new textile units set up in Tamil Nadu during the last three years in various sectors, year-wise; and

(b) the efforts made by Government to assist in setting up these textile units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The number of new cottonman made fibre textile mills set up during the last three years in the State of Tamil Nadu is an follows:—

Year	Non-SSI			SSI*	Total
	Spinning	Composite	Weaving	Spinning	
2003-04	5	2	0	47	54
2004-05	6	2	0	21	29
2005-06	7	4	1	9	21

*SSI-Small Scale Industry